construction ot new terminal building complex to cater to 400 passengers at a time and boundary wall around operational area—Rs. 30.23 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 28.89 croers was released and utilized;

SILCHAR—Acquisition of land for runway extension and strengthening of apron and taxiway—Rs. 2.86 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 1.11 crores was released and utilized,

TEZPUR—Construction of new civil enclave terminal building, civil apron & link taxiway. installation of DVOR/DME and allied works— Rs. 23.48 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 20.25 crores was released and utilized. Besides, the projects of construction ot perimeter road and boundary wall around the newly acquired land at Guwahati at a sanctioned cast of Rs. 3.63 crores is in progress for which Rs. 1.33 crores have been released so far.

(d) Progress of work of all the projects are closely monitored at Regional levels as well as at corporate level for timely completion.

Privatisation of Ground Handling of I.A., A.I. and Alliance Air

1344. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for privatisation of ground handling operations of Indian Airlines. Air India and Alliance Air at various airports:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated cost being incurred by these Airlines on ground handling of these airlines per month; and

(d) whether the privatisation of ground handling of these airlines at various airports will improve the quality of service, and if so, by when the proposal to privatise ground handling system will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does notarise.

(c) Indian airlines (including Alliance Air) and Air India incur an estimated expenditure of Rs. 7 crores and Rs. 19 crores respectively per month on ground handling.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

Agreement with foreign Partners

1345. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has brought to the notice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation certain provisions of the Airports Authority of India Act, which are coming in the way of finalizing the agreement with foreign partners for Bangalore International Airport; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry is considering requisite amendments in the AAI Act, 1994 to facilitate private sector investment in greenfield airports.

Air Services on Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur Route

†1346. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has formulated any scheme to survey the area for starting air services in future to Bilaspur, the important city of Chhattisgarh and Jagdalpur, the tribal dominated area of district Bastar;

(b) whether Indian Airlines is planning to start regular air service from Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh to Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh; and

(c) the reasons for closing down the air services all of a sudden from Delhi to Raipur *via* Jabalpur?

THE MINISRTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Alliance Air was operating thrice a week Boeing 737 service to Jabalpur on the route Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur-Delhi. Due to drop in passenger

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.